

Message Text

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53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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R 251238Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0461

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: MISIONES ELECTIONS

REF: BA 2029

1. INTERIOR MIN ROCAMORA FLEW TO MISIONES ON MAR 22 TO REVIEW THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE APRIL 13 ELECTIONS IN THAT PROVINCE. ROCAMORA HAD AS RECENTLY AS MAR 19 DENIED THAT HE WOULD BE MAKING SUCH A TRIP AND HIS SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART SPARKED A FLURRY OF RUMORS REGARDING A POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF THE ELECTIONS. ROCAMORA DENIED THIS, HOWEVER, AND STATED THA THEY WILL GO FORWARD AS SCHEDULED.

2. THE RADICALS ARE MAKING A SERIOUS EFFORT IN THE PROVINCE, AND HAVE SENT MANY OF THE PARTYS LEADING FIGURES THERE TO CAMPAIGN. PARTY LEADER RICARDO BALBIN, WHO WILL VISIT THERE HIMSELF,HAD SOME REMARKS ABOUT THE ELECTIONS IN AN INTERVIEW IN LA OPINION ON MAR 24 (SEE REF). HE STATED THAT HONEST ELECTIONS ARE ESSENTIAL AND THAT HE FELT THAT AFTER MONTHS OF NEGLECT THE PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE WOULD NOT BE FOOLED BY A FEW LAST MINUTE FITS FROM THE GOVERNMENT. THE LATTER WAS AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO LOPEZ REGAS DELIVERY OF 17 AMBULANCES AND A LARGE AMOUNT IN SUBSIDIES TO MISIONES ON MAR 12.

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3. COMMENT: THUS FAR THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IS

CONTINUING TO EVOLVE MORE OR LESS NORMALLY. THE
ORTHODOX PERONISTS STILL APPEAR IN THE LEAD AND THE
QUESTION IS THEREFORE WHETHER THEIR MARGIN OF VICTORY
WILL BE COMFORTABLE OR EMBARRASSINGLY CLOSE. THE
DISSIDENT LEFTIST PERONISTS CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS
UNDER THE BANNER OF THE "PARTIDO AUTHENTICO", AND
HOPE THEIR JOINT TICKET WITH THE "THIRD POSITION" PARTY
WILL GARNER ENOUGH VOTES TO BE A SIGNIFICANT MINORITY.
THE GOA COULD IF IT SNEAKS ANYTHING WITH THE APPEARANCE
OF A DEFEAT IN THE MAKING, LOOK FOR A PRETEXT TO CANCEL
OR POSTPONE THE ELECTIONS. THE GOA HAS NOT HOWEVER
TRIED TO BLOCK THE PARTICIPATION OF THE LEFTIST PERONISTS.
THE CHALLENGES IN THE ELECTORAL COURT HAVE DEALT ONLY WITH
THE USE OF NAMES, SYMBOLS AND SLOGANS.
HILL

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